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Patent of Mr. Frederick Bartholomew Folsch, of Oxford street, for improvements on instruments, and pens to facilitate writing.

Dated May, 1809.

Mr. Folsch's instrument for writing, is a fountain pen improved chiefly by the addition of a valve at the top; by pressing down which a small quantity of air is admitted on the enclosed ink, so as to let it descend as required.

The ink is contained in a tube about the usual dimensions, closed at top by a short tube, containing the valve which screws down into it. The valve is formed by a button covered with leather, which closes an aperture at the bottom of the short tube, and from which a shank rises upwards to a little sliding piece at the top, that is pressed upwards, so as to keep the valve closed, by a spiral spring, coiled round the shank, one end of which presses against the bottom of the short tube, and the other end against the little sliding piece; by pressing down which the valve is opened, and the air admitted; and on withdrawing the pressure, the re-action of the spring shuts the valve again.

The pen part of this instrument, differs from other metallic pens, in having a flat piece soldered on in front, all the way down to the commencement of the nib, whence it proceeds downwards detached to within a very small distance of the point, a hole is made in its upper part to admit air. Its use is to contain a greater quantity of ink close to the nib, and to prevent its flowing too freely from it. From the bottom of the large tube, a very small one (about the thirtieth of an inch in diameter) proceeds downwards about half way to the point.

This lower, or pen part, is made so as to be separated from the rest occasionally to clean it.

In some of Mr. Folsch's pens, instead of the valve, the top of the large tube is closed by a screw, in which a small hole is drilled upwards, to meet another horizontal one in the side a little way down. The air is admitted through these apertures, by turning round the screw backwards a little way.

The other variations in Mr. Folsch's writing instruments consist principally in different arrangements of the pen part, which are too minute to admit of description without drawings.

Remarks.... These pens seem very superior in their construction to common fountain pens, and would be found very serviceable to those who were much pressed in time when writing. It is not, however, likely that the metallic pens, which terminate them, will be found equally pleasant to write with as pens made of quills; the peculiar elasticity of which no art has yet been able to imitate effectually in metal.

On the use of violet pickle as a re-agent; and on the utility of salting vegetables intended for distillation, by M. Descrozilles, sen.

Annales de Chymie.

The re-agent most usually employed for determining the presence of acids, uncombined alkalis, and alkaline carbonats, is syrup of violets. This re-agent, is, however, subject to several inconveniences. If it be exposed to a rather warm temperature, it ferments; the cork of the bottle flies out; a part of the syrup runs over, and the rest after being reddened more or less by the carbonic acid that is formed, dries up into a mass of small crystals. It very frequently happens that flies and other insects, being attracted towards it, are drowned in it, putrify, and alter the syrup. It was therefore conceived that a pickle of violets might be substituted for it, and it answered upon trial. The following is the mode of preparing it.

Pour upon the petals of violets, which have been slightly squeezed into a very small pewter measure, double their weight of boiling water, cover the vessel, and expose it for some hours to a heat rather superior to that of baths, and then pass the water through a very clean cloth squeezing it strongly. Afterwards weigh the infusion very exactly, and add to it the third part of its weight of common salt. The finest white salt is to be preferred, because it contains little or no muriate with an earthly base, which might effect the colour. This pickle is of a fine deep